Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BONN 02728, SENT SECSTATE 14 FEBRUARY:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02728

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: BONN 2720

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FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING BY GENSCHER ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP, FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR LAHN AND NEAR EAST DIRECTOR BOEKER PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP. THESE INCLUDE:

1. OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD HAD CALLED IN STANDARD TERMS FOR A COMPLETE ISRAELI

EVACUATION OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM, HOWEVER, HAD SAID THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE, IT WAS BEST NOT TO TALK ABOUT BORDER QUESTIONS NOW. HE HAD ADDED IN AN ASIDE SOMETHING WHICH GAVE THE IMPRESSION HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF SMALL TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONTIER, BUT HIS REMARKS WERE NOT CLEAR. THE GERMAN DELEGATION CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS PROBABLY SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE SYRIAN AND JORDANIAN POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO SAY SO OPENLY.

- 2. PALESTINIANS: ASAD IMPLIED NO PRESSURE FOR RECOGNITION OF THE PLO. IN DISCUSSIONS HE REFERRED ONLY TO THE PALESTINIANS AND MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT ANY EXILE GOVERNMENT. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WERE HOPEFUL THAT THE PALESTINIANS MAFESTO MIGHT BE MODIFIED, FACILITATING PALESTINIAN FLEXIBILITY. SADAT SAID HE HAD "ALWAYS ADVOCATED" THE LINK BETWEEN JORDAN AND A PALESTINIAN STATE, BUT THAT THE RABAT MEETING HAD MADE THINGS MORE COMPLICATED. THE GERMANS FELT THAT ARAB THINKING IS MORE AND MORE IN THE DIRECTION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE COMPOSED OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. AT ONE POINT, SADAT HAD REFERRED TO AN "AUTONOMOUS" PALESTINIAN STATE.
- 3. PROSPECTS FOR PEACE: ASAD SAID THE ARABS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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READY FOR PEACE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ISRAELI EVACUATION OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE BUT THAT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE WAS BLOCKING EFFORTS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO ASAD, IT WAS UP TO THE U.S. TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MODIFY ITS ATTITUDE. EUROPE'S ROLE WAS TO PERSUADE THE U.S. TO DO SO, HE SAID.

- 4. GENEVA CONFERENCE: AS REPORTED REFTEL, FAHMY WAS IN FAVOR OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS SOON AS FEASIBLE, IF ONLY FOR A FORMAL SESSION FOLLOWED BY A POSTPONEMENT OF SEVERAL MONTHS. SADAT HAD INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA. LAHN DOUBTED THAT SADAT WOULD ACCEPT AN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF MEPC.
- 5. SAUDI "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR EGYPT: BOTH FAHMY AND SADAT HAVE GREAT HOPES FOR THE SAUDI "MARSHALL PLAN" AIMED AT SHORING UP THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO SADAT, 2 BILLION DOLLARS IN AID HAVE ALREADY BEEN

APPROVED, ALTHOUGH A TOTAL OF 6 TO 8 BILLION DOLLARS IS NEEDED. LAHN COMMENTED THAT THE SAUDIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE IN EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS IF THE PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED. (ON THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL FRG-EGYPT AID, THE GERMANS SAID THERE WAS NO TALK OF SPECIFIC FIGURES. THEY INDICATED AID TO EGYPT THIS YEAR WOULD BE AT THE SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR'S.)

- 6. THE GERMAN BUSINESSMEN WITH GENSCHER HAD BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE OUTLOOK IN SYRIA AND IN SYRIAN PROFESSIONS OF MORE OPENNESS TO WESTERN PROJECTS, INCLUDING A WILLINGNESS TO GUARANTEE INVESTMENTS.
- 7. EGYPT AFTER THE RIOTS: WITHIN EGYPT SADAT MAY HAVE RECOVERED MOST OF THE PRESTIGE HE LOST CONFIDENTIAL

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DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES. HOWEVER, IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS, ESPECIALLY DAMASCUS, HIS POSITION IS SEEN AS BEING WEAKER THAN BEFORE.

8. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO INTERESTED POSTS.
STOESSEL UNQUOTE. HARTMAN

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